

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 – 20 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 and 19 are the only independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments overcome the 35 USC 112 rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

New claim 1 is a combination of former claims 1, 6, and 11. Claim 19 has been amended in a corresponding manner. It is respectfully submitted that amended claims 1 and 19 and the dependent claims are novel and unobvious over the documents of record.

According to the amended claims, the outer sleeve wall is made of a fibre composite material, having several layers of carbon nonwoven-fibres sheets, with at least some of these sheet layers having fibres with the same orientation. The use of carbon fibre sheets instead of windings for building up the outer sleeve wall results in considerable reduction in manufacturing costs for the outer sleeve wall while simultaneously allowing the nonwoven-fibres sheets to be arranged with the desired orientation of the fibres such that the outer wall will be reasonably thin but still have sufficient rigidity. Also, claims 1 and 19 specify that the sleeve includes a carbon fibre winding around the sheet layers which adds rigidity to the outer wall as set forth in the present disclosure at page 3, lines 30 – 32.

The Lorig, Rossini, and other documents of record do not disclose or fairly suggest a sleeve structure as defined in the amended claims, including sheets with an outer carbon fibre winding. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are patentable over the documents of record and meet all other statutory requirements. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

May 18, 2010
Date

Respectfully submitted,


Steven Haas (Reg. No. 37,841)
FAY SHARPE LLP
The Halle Building, Fifth Floor
1228 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216)363 – 9000